

facts in syntheses, they are patient, painstaking, and entirely ready to face, interrogate, and admit any new fact that comes along To opinions, they extend the same hospitality, they have always done so Socialist opinions, like Capitalist opinions, have to defend themselves on their merits, and on the basis of their correspondence with the facts, included in those facts being their human reference This alert accessibility, this persistent relativity, has been there from the start They have never, for example, heresy-hunted This is not only due to their tolerance, it is part and parcel of the genuinely scientific spirit, which can and does wait

The background of their economics, therefore, is an unusually comprehensive and constantly growing army of facts, of all sorts For facts, both are temperamentally greedy By the time they came together, he was armed with an unequalled knowledge of history, and an unequalled familiarity with economic and sociological literature in English, French and German He also knew a vast amount about the working of public institutions, from the Civil Service to the town council He knew the mind of the urban worker, he knew the mind of the *bourgeoisie* She complemented his experience, amazingly She knew the personnel of the governing hierarchy, both in Government, opinion, and industry, intimately She knew Trade Unionists and Co-operators, middlemen, artisans, and the

captains of enterprise He knew theoretically,
she knew
practically, the complicated world of modern
finance
the intricate ramifications of the credit system,
the technique
of investment and of speculation Their dense
familiarity
with "social and economic tissue" constituted an
unique
equipment Economics, of all branches of
human study,
is the least detachable from actual
circumstances, the
most dependent on authentic familiarity with
the concrete
content of the phrase "other things being
equal " Their